United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference hold round of meetings to pursue recent Serb and Croat proposals for settlement of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General appoints General Jean Cot of France as UNPROFOR Force Commander from 1 July, replacing Lieutenant-General Wahlgren; Lieutenant-General Morillon to be replaced as UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Special Envoy for Haiti says talks to resolve Haitian crisis to begin at United Nations Headquarters on Sunday; President Aristide and General Cedras have agreed on agenda.

+ Tanzania tells World Conference on Human Rights that Member States would be subject to "double standards" if proposed human rights commissioner could bring serious human rights violations before Security Council.

+ UNTAC blames National Army of Democratic Kampuchea for 7 June attack on Pakistani troops in Preah Vihear Province; says Cambodian People's Armed Forces probably responsible for attack same day on Malaysians.

+ Industrial Development Board to consider budget proposals for UNIDO at eleventh session in Vienna from 28 June to 2 July.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Thorvald Stoltenberg, met today with delegations from the Croatian Government and Serb authorities from Knin to establish a negotiating mechanism, according to a United Nations spokesman. Nothing had been formally agreed except that they would meet again on 6 July.

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For information media—not an official record

The Co-Chairmen also met with Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, following a meeting last night with seven of the ten members of the Bosnian Presidency and the Presidents of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. The Co-Chairmen also had a dinner meeting last night with the Bosnian Presidency.

The current round of meetings is pursuing proposals put forward last week by the Serb and Croat sides for a settlement of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the spokesman said. The Co-Chairmen believed that the Vance-Owen plan remained highly relevant to any new settlement, and that the constitutional principles transmitted to the Bosnian Presidency this week contained many elements of the Vance-Owen plan's nine principles. However, the Co-Chairmen had taken no position on the document presented by the Serbs and Croats. The Bosnian presidency planned to return to Geneva on Monday for further meetings with the Co-Chairmen.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided, subject to the agreement of the Security Council, to appoint General Jean Cot of France as Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) effective 1 July. General Cot, who holds the rank of "Général d'armée", is currently Commander-in-Chief of the First French Army and Military Governor of Strasbourg. He will replace Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden, who has been Force Commander of UNPROFOR since 3 March 1993.

Related changes in the UNPROFOR chain of command will involve the replacement of the UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Philippe Morillon, who is completing his tour of duty and will shortly return to France. His replacement has not yet been named.

Meanwhile, France has said it is ready to provide an additional battalion for UNPROFOR in Sarajevo, one of the six "safe areas" established by the Security Council. Bangladesh, Netherlands and Pakistan have also offered troops to serve with UNPROFOR in implementing the "safe areas", while several other Member States are considering additional contributions.

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Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and General Raoul Cedras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, have agreed that talks to resolve the Haitian crisis will begin at United Nations Headquarters on Sunday at 9:00 a.m., Special Envoy Dante Caputo announced today. Agreement was also reached on the agenda for the talks, which will be conducted by the Special Envoy.

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Tanzania's Attorney-General Damian Lubuva told the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna yesterday that the proposal for a human rights

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commissioner would give the commissioner authority to bring serious violations of human rights before the Security Council, thus subjecting Member States to the double standards practised by those who dominated the Council.

The Director of the human rights component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) noted that the Authority had the broadest human rights mandate ever entrusted to a United Nations peace-keeping operation. For the first time, the Organization had established its own prosecutor's office and had arrested and charged human rights violators. He said human rights were part of a rehabilitation and rebuilding process which demanded long-term investment by the international community. Tunisia's Foreign Minister said the Conference agenda proved that the international community had a firm will to protect human rights.

The Conference, which ends tomorrow, is drafting a final document that will contain such principles as the universality and indivisibility of human rights and will include the rights of children, the disabled, minorities and indigenous peoples, as well as specific measures to strengthen United Nations monitoring of human rights.

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The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has concluded that an attack on 7 June on Pakistani UNTAC troops in Preah Vihear Province was deliberately carried out by elements of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK). That conclusion was reached after an investigation by UNTAC Strategic Investigation Teams, according to a letter from the Secretary-General to the Security Council.

An attack on the same day on Malaysian UNTAC troops in Battambang Province was "most probably" carried out by local elements of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces, or CPAF, the letter said. Although there was no conclusive evidence as to the identity of the attackers, shell casings retrieved and the behaviour of local CPAF soldiers and villagers strongly indicated CPAF responsibility.

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Programme and budget proposals for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will be the main focus of the 53-nation Industrial Development Board's eleventh session, to be held in Vienna from 28 June to 2 July. The Board will consider relative priorities among UNIDO's main activities in the medium-term plan for 1994-99, and its future policy framework, according to a UNIDO press release.

A focal point for discussion will be UNIDO's 1992 Annual Report, which reveals that technical cooperation delivered last year amounted to $136 million, a decrease of 8 per cent from 1991. However, UNIDO promoted 194 investment projects worth $1,473 million in 1992, compared with 166 projects worth 890 million in 1991.

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